

February 15, 1983

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PRESIDENT: Apparently there is no further discussion requested. Senator Hoagland, do you care to close?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, I would like to close if I might, Mr. President. Let me emphasize how much easier it is on this floor, and we have seen this happen in this session and we are going to see it happen again and we have certainly seen it happen in the past, how much easier it is to kill a bill than it is to pass it. Now, we have lots of other exceptions in the criminal law and let me...and I have a whole list of them right here, I mean the fact that it is wrong to create an exception in the criminal law, wrong to create an exception in the civil law, I mean we have so many exceptions in the laws already that I think to draw the line here doesn't really make any sense.

PRESIDENT: Senator, the noise level is just a little bit high. Please have order in the Chamber. Thank you.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: But the bottom line, I mean the thing I want to emphasize most of all is that number one, incidents of vandalizing synagogues have increased dramatically in Nebraska from 1981 to 1982, and anti-semitic activities nationwide have increased dramatically. These statistics were presented to the Judiciary Committee. Secondly, and even more importantly, in the eight states that have passed this bill there has been a significant decline in vandalism of synagogues. In the eight states that have passed this bill there has been a significant decline in the vandalism of synagogues. Now I can appreciate the need for uniformity in our laws but our basic responsibility is to protect people and to protect property and if we come in with a bill that will show that we can decrease the incidents of vandalism in this state, I think we ought to pass it. I mean, what is more important after all, having a neat and tidy criminal code that satisfies the predelictions of lawyers around the state or having a code that works for the people, having a code that does something by way of protecting people and property. Now to me it is simple. I am willing to make a thousand exceptions in the criminal code if we can prevent ten synagogues from being vandalized in the state in the next five years. I just think that is an elementary proposition. This is model legislation drafted by the Anti-defamation League of the B'nai B'rith. They want it. They are asking for it. They have gotten it passed in other states. They say it does good. They have statistics to support that, and I say, let's pass it in Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.